



WISCONSIN COUNCIL ON INVASIVE SPECIES

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Executive Committee

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Invader Crusader Awards Ceremony

June 2nd, 2006

Governor's Conference room, State Capitol

10:30 - 11:30 am

Brief remarks by:

Department of Natural Resources Secretary Scott Hassett
Senator Roger Breske

Presentation by: Peter Murray, Chair
Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species

The battle against invasive species in Wisconsin has been fought for many years. Volunteers and professionals are being recognized for going above and beyond in their efforts to prevent and control the spread of invasive species.

The groups and individuals below have been selected to receive the 2006 Invader Crusader Award presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The award ceremony on June 2nd at the State Capital, kicks off this year's Invasive Species Awareness Month.

The Invader Crusader Award was created to honor Wisconsin citizens and organizations for their significant contribution to the prevention or eradication of invasive species that harm Wisconsin's land and waters.

"Invasive species not only impact our native ecosystems, but are also a financial burden to our local industries and residents. Working to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Wisconsin helps to promote the ecological and financial health of this state," said Governor Jim Doyle.

This is the second year Invader Crusader awards have been presented by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species.

"We received 35 nominations for 29 different people or groups," explained Becky Sapper with The Nature Conservancy and Invasive Species Council member. "There are so many that deserve recognition for their efforts

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addressing the invasive species issue in Wisconsin. The caliber of these award winners demonstrates the dedication of Wisconsin's citizens to keep our state's natural resources in good health."

2006 Invader Crusader Award recipients:

Voluntary Efforts:

Mike Fort, Wales

Amy Staffen, Madison

Jane Swenson, Iron River

Vilas County Aquatic Invasive Species Partnership *and* Vilas County Lakes Association

Professional Efforts:

Fred Clark, Clark Forestry, Baraboo

Gigi La Budde, Community Forestry Resource Center, Spring Green

Rhonda Reisenbuechler, L. B. Clarke Middle School, Manitowoc

South Central Region State Natural Area Crew, Department of Natural Resources, Fitchburg

During June, Invasive Species Awareness Month, numerous field trips, workshops, presentations and work parties will be held throughout the state to teach citizens about invasive species and what they can do to stop the spread. To learn more, visit

<http://invasivespecies.wi.gov/awareness>.

This news release is sponsored by the Wisconsin Council on Invasive Species. The Wisconsin State Legislature created the Council, to which Governor Doyle appointed 13 members. The Council's mission is to prevent and reduce the harmful impacts of invasive species on Wisconsin's environment and economy, as well as human well-being.